

OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING

August 1-4, 2011

U.S. Closing Statement; August 4, 2011

Delivered by Courtney R. Nemroff

The United States thanks the Chair, facilitators, and panelists for this second session of very informative panels.

The compelling examples presented reinforce for the United States the importance of addressing the challenges faced by older persons around the globe and in particular the prevalence of abuse of the human rights of older persons.

We come away from this week's session with the belief that a consensus has been reached in the Working Group on the need for further, concerted, multilateral action on these issues. Although some member states support a new treaty devoted to the rights of older persons and other new mechanisms, no consensus on these options have emerged from the April or August Open-Ended Working Group sessions. And many States have not yet joined the discussion to articulate their positions.

As we indicated on Monday, the United States believes that States should be informed, not only by the very important deliberations of the Working Group, but also by the results of the ten-year review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, before taking a decision on whether a convention or other new mechanism is needed.

However, we would like to stress that that does not mean that nothing can or should be done on these issues between now and 2012. As panelists, delegations and other participants have noted, there are many actions that can be taken in the near term, without a new instrument or mechanism, to make a meaningful contribution to addressing the problems of the abuse of the rights of older persons and the challenges of the rapidly ageing populations in many countries. For example, along with the EU and others here, we support encouraging existing mandate holders to give the necessary attention to the rights of older persons within their mandates. We hope that the Working Group can focus on these near-

term steps in a future session, while continuing its work to determine whether additional measures to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons are necessary in the longer term.

Thank you.